

What is claimed is:

1. A light shielding structure of a lens barrel including an inner ring and an outer ring positioned outside said inner ring so that at least one of said inner  
5 ring and said outer ring rotates relative to the other, wherein said inner ring includes at least one through cutout portion which radially extends through said inner ring, said light shielding structure comprising:

an inner flange wall provided with said inner ring  
10 to be positioned in front of said through cutout portion in an optical axis direction;

a first annular groove formed on an inner surface of said inner flange wall, said first annular groove being centered about the optical axis;

15 a second annular groove formed on an inner peripheral surface of said outer ring; and

a light shield ring which includes a cylindrical portion centered about said optical axis, and an outer flange portion which extends radially outwards from a rear  
20 end of said cylindrical portion so that said cylindrical portion is inserted into said first annular groove to be slidably movable relative thereto, and so that said outer flange portion is inserted into said second annular groove to be slidably movable relative thereto.

25 2. The light shielding structure according to

claim 1, wherein said inner flange wall is formed as a separate member from the inner ring, said inner flange wall being provided on a front end surface of said inner ring.

5           3.     The light shielding structure according to claim 1, wherein said light shield ring is made of synthetic resin which has a resiliency such that said cylindrical portion and said outer flange portion can be inserted into said first annular groove and said radial  
10   annular groove, respectively.

          4.     The light shielding structure according to claim 1, wherein said inner flange wall serves as a decorative member which forms a portion of the front end appearance of said lens barrel.

15           5.     The light shielding structure according to claim 1, wherein said outer ring is movable in said optical axis direction while rotating relative to said inner ring, and wherein said inner ring is movable in said optical axis direction without rotating relative to a stationary  
20   barrel of said lens barrel.

          6.     The light shielding structure according to claim 1, wherein said lens barrel is incorporated in a camera to serve as a photographing lens barrel.

          7.     The light shielding structure according to  
25   claim 6, wherein said lens barrel comprises a retractable

lens barrel which can be retracted into a camera body when not in use.